by Kate O’Hara

Lights, camera and steal the stage. CCCC’s performance of Taming of the Shrew, by William Shakespeare, was an impressive display of wit, humor and talent. Amber Pelkey as Katherine and Rob Minshall as Petruchio drive the theater with a fiery passion for the characters few professionals seem to care for.

All plays have their flaws, and putting on even a well-acted play at a community college will bring trouble. The set, while handmade, was interesting but minimal, with only two sets for areas. With the small stage space available, though, they made do with wheeling pieces that made sense for the size. Costumes were lacking, but not inappropriate for the time period. Again, likely due to a low budget show, it did not take too much from the acting.

One small problem seemed to begin at the start of the second act. While the show began with a bang and laughs the whole way through the first half of the show, the second half began with a drawl of soft speaking, and dragged on with a lack of comical rhythm and a bit of a poor execution. Thankfully it picked up rather quickly, as the dullness of the actual taming process was a mess of long monologues and a poor taste of attempts to bend free-will; whereas Kate’s sharp tongue pitted against Petruchio’s was far more entertaining. The pace soon picked up rather quickly, though, as the story moved from the simple attempts of taming, to the comical interactions and inter-twined stories of all the characters. Despite the tiny flaws, and small crowd, the play of Taming of the shrew brings in a small cast of 15 players, to tell the story of a man drawn into wedding the shrew based solely on her heavy dowry, despite a sharp tongue and mean wit. The plot continues on through their wild marriage and the strange wooing of suitors following Kate’s, i.e. Katherine’s younger sister, Bianca. Each actor brought a new light to the play, each one distinctly different from the last. The most entertaining aspect was to simply watch the actors interact and be themselves and the character at the same time. Pelkey’s fiery attitude and red hair only enhanced the entertaining strength that shone through in her character, matched with Minshall’s sarcastic, domineering presence that took over the stage with each passing moment. Josh Chasson’s amusing performance as Grumio only enhanced the play. Whereas his co-cast drew in the deeper pieces of humor and love, Chasson’s performance really hit home with the amusing, but pitiful character he played. Perhaps a favorite as his performance drew out obvious sniggers and smiles from the crowd.

The old, Shakespearean style of speech can make this play difficult to follow for those having never read or seen any of his works before. But for those with an ear for Shakespeare, or simply want to sit down for a couple hours and enjoy a good laugh, this $10.00 a seat play is the perfect show to visit either in the afternoon, or for a late night laugh and dinner.

Turkeys cross the Cape Cod Community College campus

by Kate O’Hara

Several Cape Cod Community College students and faculty have seen turkeys wandering the campus. While most of the time turkeys may seem quiet and lazy, Spring is here and that means it is mating season for the Cape turkey population.

With mating season comes the danger of hostile birds. Turkeys are particularly attracted to the color red, the same color a tom or male turkey’s head will turn to during this season. CCCC Vice President of Facilities Management and Stability, John Lebica, highly recommends that students not wear red socks during this time, as the turkeys have been known to attack them due to the resemblance of a tom.

“The best way to avoid turkey conflicts is to just keep your distance and enjoy watching them from afar and don’t wear red socks. They will be mating until late May when the hens will nest and if we are as lucky as last year, we will have plenty of babies,” Lebica said.

According to Lebica, there has been little-to-no trouble with the large birds thus far. Students seem to know well enough to not harass them and hopefully not to feed them.

The worry is, though, why they are a consistent presence on the campus. The lack of predators about the campus, flourishing with the low numbers of coyotes to prey on them. The coyote numbers, though, should see an increase during the longer winter season.

“I hope no one is feeding them. We have a very strict policy against feeding wildlife on campus. Feeding stops, turkeys are prone to take on aggressive methods to getting the food they want, like any animal. Turkeys were a nearly extinct creature on the Cape. In 1970, efforts to reintroduce them into the wild were successful. Thanks to the efforts of Mass Fish and Wildlife, a decimated turkey population has grown on the Cape, flourishing with the low numbers of coyotes to prey on them. The coyote numbers, though, should see an increase with the abundance of prey. Until then, there is an expectation that the turkey population will continue to grow on the Cape and around the campus.

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